

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 12-20, 22, 24, 27-30 and 32-43 are pending in the present application. Additionally, new claims 37-42 have been added, and these claims include the subject matter the Examiner stated was allowable in the April 20, 2006 Office Action. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following responsive remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

In the Office Action of October 19, 2006, the following actions were taken:

(1) Claims 2-3 and 19-20 were objected to under 37 CFT 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim;

(2) Claims 1-3, 12-13, 17-20, 29-30, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,790,878 to Kurabayashi;

(3) Claims 6, 10, 14-16, 22, 24, 27-28, and 32-35 were deemed to be directed to allowable subject matter but were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim; and

(4) Claims 37-43 were allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims be examined and allowed. Applicants submit that each and every amendment herein, and throughout the prosecution of the present application is fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-3 and 19-20 as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and submits that claims 2 and 3 do further limit the subject matter of claim 1. Likewise, claims 19 and 20 further limit the subject matter of claim 18. For example, claim 2 specifically notes that the hydrophilic group is selected from the group consisting of fluoric acids, α - and/or β -fluorocarboxylic acids, and combinations thereof. This can further limit claim 1 in

the selection of the first monomer can be selected from the fluoric acids, α - and/or β -fluorocarboxylic acids, and combinations thereof. This limitation is specifically specifically inclusive of at least one of the groups of claim 1. Further, it is noted that the polymer of claim 1 is said to include those copolymers that are listed in the claim. The polymer could be additionally copolymerized with monomers such as those described in dependent claim 2. Likewise, claim 3 restricts the selection to a hydrophilic group with a sulfonic acid group. Claim 3 is specifically inclusive of at least one of the groups of claim 1. Additionally, the polymer of claim 1 includes the copolymer groups described in that claim, which is permissive of further copolymerization. Claims 19 and 20 mirror claims 2 and 3. As the present claim construction does indeed further limit the subject matter of the previous claims, removal of the objection is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 12-13, 17-20, 29-30, and 36 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,790,878 to Kurabayashi. The subject matter, in alternate form, of claims 6 and 10, claims 22 and 24, and claims 32 and 33 is now present in each of the rejected independent claims 11, 18, and 30, respectively. As the Examiner has deemed the subject matter allowable, it is believed that these amendments render the rejection over Kurabayashi moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all the pending claims present allowable subject matter and allowance is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after consideration of the above remarks, and such impediment could be removed during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone W. Bradley Haymond (Registration No. 35,186) at (541) 715-0159 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

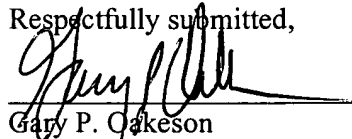
Serial No. 10/824,173
Atty. Docket No. 200314549-1

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Dated this 19th day of January, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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